Remarks

Claims 1-11, 15, 17-28 and 30-40 are currently pending in the Application.

Telephone conference

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the many courtesies extended during the telephone conference held on June 15, 2006.

Allowable Claims

Applicant acknowledges with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to Claims 15, 17-28 and 30-40.

Rejection of Claims 1-11 on obviousness-type double patenting grounds

The Office Action asserts a rejection of Claims 1-11 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/436,753 in view Allison (U.S. Patent No. 6,741,207).

Applicant notes that in accordance with MPEP 804.(I)(B), a provisional double patenting rejection is only a warning and although "the merits of [a] provisional [double patenting] rejection can be addressed by both the applicant and the examiner without waiting for the first patent to issue" addressing such issue at this stage is not required. Therefore Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to postpone such provisional rejection and convert such provisional rejection into a non-provisional one in one of the two applications as soon as the other goes to grant. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully solicited.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of McGrath (U.S. Patent No. 6,642,889) and further in view of Allison (U.S. Patent No. 6,741,207).

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Applicant submits that the Examiner has **not** established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicant notes:

"To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. **Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations**. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure" (emphases added) *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Applicant submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because the Examiner has failed to show that McGrath and Allison teach each and every element as claimed in the present application. In particular:

Claim 1

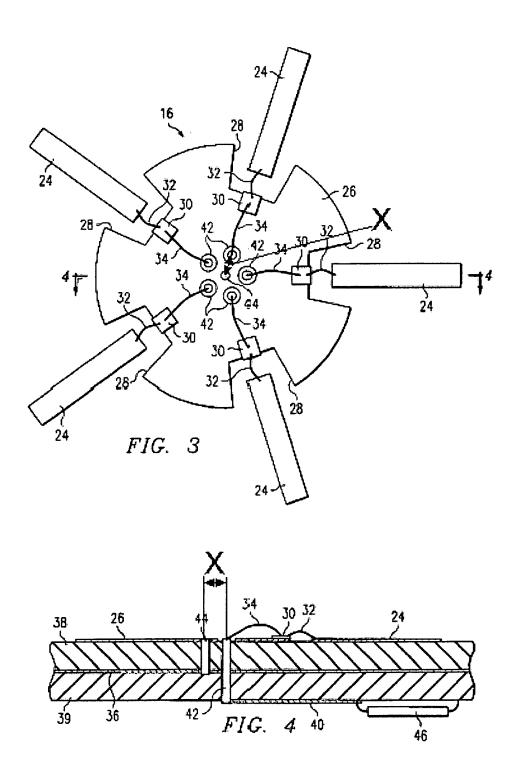
A. Applicant submits that the Examiner has <u>not</u> shown that McGrath and Allison disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, the following features recited by Claim 1 of the present application:

"each MEMS switch being disposed on a common imaginary circle centered on said axis, ... a conductive via in said substrate arranged ... on said axis" (emphasis added)

The Examiner asserts that "said axis" as recited in Claim 1 is disclosed by McGrath's via "44." See page 3, last paragraph of the Official Action. The Examiner also asserts that the "conductive via" as recited in Claim 1 is disclosed by McGrath's via "42." See page 3, last paragraph of the Official Action. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion.

According to McGrath's Figures 3 and 4 reproduced below, vias "42" and "44"

are separated by distance "X" added to the drawings.



Because vias "42" and "44" are separated by distance "X," how can McGrath teach,

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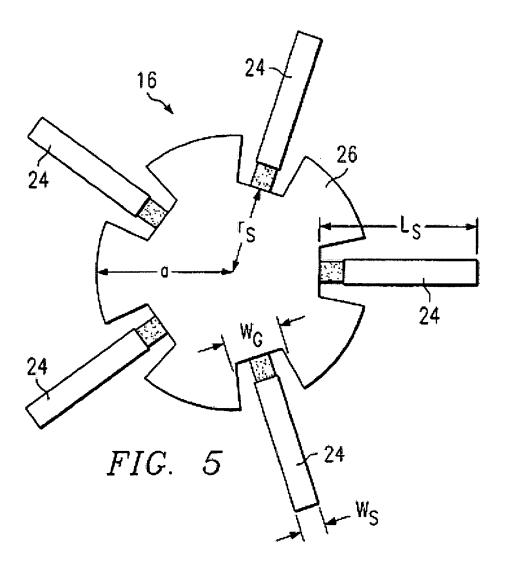
disclose, or suggest "a conductive via in said substrate arranged ... on said axis" (emphasis added) as recited in Claim 1? According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the term "on" is defined as "in contact with" and "touching the surface of." See the definition of the term "on" from Merriam-Webster Dictionary enclosed herein. Because McGrath's vias "42" and "44" are separated by distance "X," McGrath does not disclose "a conductive via in said substrate arranged ... on said axis" as recited in Claim 1. Hence, Claim 1 is patentable over McGrath and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claims 2-6 and 10, at least based on their dependency on Claim 1, are also believed to be patentable over McGrath.

B. Applicant submits that the Examiner has <u>not</u> shown that McGrath and Allison disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, the following features recited by Claim 1 of the present application:

"each MEMS switch being disposed on a common imaginary circle centered on said axis ... the circle having a diameter which is smaller than **one half wavelength** for all frequencies in a passband of said broadband switch" (emphasis added)

Referring to McGrath's Figure 5 reproduced below, the Examiner asserts that the "common imaginary circle" as recited in Claim 1 is defined by McGrath's radius " r_s ." See page 3, last paragraph of the Official Action. According to the Examiner, because McGrath's stub length " L_s " is $\lambda/4$ the diameter of the circle defined by McGrath's radius " r_s " is less than $\lambda/2$. See page 3, last paragraph of the Official Action. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion.

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Applicant is not sure how the Examiner arrived at the conclusion that the diameter of the circle defined by McGrath's radius " r_s " is less than $\lambda/2$ just because McGrath's stub length " L_s " is $\lambda/4$. Is the Examiner's conclusion based on the dimensions of McGrath's Figure 5? In reviewing McGrath, Applicant was unable to find any support for the Examiner's conclusion that McGrath's Figure 5 is to scale. On the contrary, according to McGrath, notch " $28(a-r_s)$ " is chosen such that the input impedance of the radiating element "26" at the radius " r_s " is equal to the characteristic impedance of the microstrip stub "24." Wherein, for a characteristic impedance of 50 Ohms and 100 Ohms, " r_s " is approximately a/3 and a/2, respectively. See column 6, lines 30-34 of McGrath.

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Because McGrath does not teach that the diameter of the circle defined by McGrath's radius " r_s " is less than $\lambda/2$ when McGrath's stub length " L_s " is $\lambda/4$, McGrath does not disclose "the circle having a diameter which is smaller than **one half wavelength**" (emphasis added) as recited in Claim 1.

If the Examiner does not agree with Applicant's interpretation of McGrath, Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) by designating "as nearly as practicable" where McGrath discloses that the diameter of the circle defined by McGrath's radius " r_s " is less than $\lambda/2$ when McGrath's stub length " L_s " is $\lambda/4$.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents POB 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

July 19, 2006

(Date of Deposit)

Shannon Tinsley

(Name of Person Signing)

(Signature)

July 19, 2006

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,

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O

10moniobus \"äm-ni-(1)bəs\ n : BUS

20mnibus adj : of, relating to, or providing for many things at once (an ~ bill)
om-nip-o-tent \ampli am- ni-p-tent \ adj : having unlimited

authority or influence : ALMIGHTY — om-nip-o-tence - om nip o tent ly adv

om-ni-pres-ent \am-ni-prez-ont\ adj : present in all places at all times - om-ni-pres-ence \-ons\ n

om-ni-scient \am- ni-shont\ adj : having infinite awareness, understanding, and insight — \-shans\ n — om·ni-scient-ly adv om•ni•science

om-ni-um-gath-er-um \am-ne-əm-'ga-th--r-m\ n, pl omnium-gatherums : a miscellaneous collection

om-niv-o-rous \am- ni-va-ras\ adj: feeding on both animal and vegetable substances; also: AVID (an ~

reader) — omenivorous ly adv on \one on, \one on \one or on \one on \ contact with (jumped ~ his horse) 2: touching the surface of (shadows ~ the wall) 3: AT, TO (~ the right were the mountains) 4: IN, ABOARD (went ~ the train) 5: during or at the time of (came ~ Monday) (every hour ~ the hour) 6: through the agency of (was cut ~ a tin can) 7: in a state or process of (~ fire) (~ the wane) 8: connected with as a member or participant (~ a committee) (~ tour) 9 dicate a basis, source, or standard of computation (has it ~ good authority) (10 cents ~ the dollar) 10 : with regard to (a monopoly ~ wheat) 11 : at or to-ward as an object (crept up ~ her) 12 : ABOUT, CON-CERNING (a book ~ minerals)

²on adv 1: in or into a position of contact with or attachment to a surface 2: FORWARD 3: into operation

30n adj: being in operation or in progress ON abbr Ontario

once \ wans\ adv 1: one time only 2: at any one time 3: FORMERLY 4: by one degree of relationship

2 once n: one single time — at once 1: at the same time 2: IMMEDIATELY

once adj: FORMER
once conj: AS SOON AS

once-over \"wəns-10-vər\ n: a swift examination or survey

on-com-ing \on-ka-min, an-\adj: APPROACHING (~ traffic)

ne \wan\ adj 1: being a single unit or thing (~ person went) 2: being one in particular (early ~ morning) 3: being the same in kind or quality (members of ~ race); also: UNITED 4: being not specified or fixed

²one n 1: the number denoting unity 2: the 1st in a set or series 3: a single person or thing — one ness

one pron 1: a certain indefinitely indicated person or thing (saw ~ of his friends) 2: a person in general (~ never knows) 3 - used in place of a first-person pro-

ยดเทย Onei-da \o-ni-da\n, pl Oneida or Oneidas: a member of an American Indian people orig. of New York oner ous \alpha -no-ros, \alpha - adj : imposing or constituting a burden: TROUBLESOME syn oppressive, exacting,

burdensome, weighty one-self \(1 \) wan-"self \ also one's self pron : one's own

self — usu. used reflexively or for emphasis one-sid-ed \"wən-"si-dəd\ adi 1: having or occurring on one side only; also: having one side prominent or more developed 2 : PARTIAL (a ~ interpretation) one-time \-stim\ adj : FORMER

one-to-one \wenter-twent adj: pairing each element of a set uniquely with an element of another set one up adj: being in a position of advantage (was one

up on the others) one—way adj: moving, allowing movement, or functioning in only one direction (~ streets)

on-go-ing \'on-180-in, 'an-\ adj: continuously moving

onion \'en-yen\ n: the pungent edible bulb of a cul-

tivated plant related to the lilies; also: this plant on-ion-skin \- skin \ n : a thin strong translucent par of very light weight

on-line adj or adv: connected to or controlled direct by a computer

on-look-er \"on-slu-kər. "än-\ n : SPECTATOR on ly \on-le\ adj 1: unquestionably the best 2: sol 20nly adv 1: MERELY, JUST (~ \$2) 2: SOLELY (know with $\frac{adv}{2}$: MERELT, 1031 ($\sim 32/2$: SOLELY (known to me) 3: at the very least (was \sim too true) 4: a final result (will \sim make you sick)

only conj : except that

on-o-mato-poeia \(\frac{1}{2}\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac\ sense — on o mato poe-ic \- pē-ik\ or on o mato poe-ic \- pē-ik\ or on o mato poe-ic \- pē-ik\ or on o mato poe-ic \- pē-ik\ adj — on o mato poe-ic ally \ | pe k(a-)le\ or on-o-mato-po-et-i-cal-ly \-po-'e-ti-k(a-)

Onon-da-ga \a=non-do-go, -da-, -da-\ n, pl -a gas : a member of an American Indian people. New York and Canada

on-rush \on-resh, \an-\ n: a rushing onward rush•ing adj

on-set \-.set\ n 1 : ATTACK 2 : BEGINNING on-shore \-. shor\ adj 1 : moving toward the shore : situated on or near the shore - on-shore

on-slaught \on-slot, an-\ n : a fierce attack: : something resembling such an attack (an ~ of one

Ont abbr Ontario on-to *on-tü, *\an-\ prep : to a position or point or onus *o-n\sigma\ n 1 : BURDEN 2 : OBLIGATION 3 : BLA on-ward \on-ward, also on-wards \-wardz\

2onward adj : directed or moving onward : FORWARD on-yx \and a-niks\ n [ME onix, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. onyx, fr. Gk, lit., claw, nail]: a translucent chalce

ony in parallel layers of different colors oo-dles \"ud-"lz\" n pl: a great quantity oo-lite \"ō-ə-ılīt\ n: a rock consisting of small roo

grains cemented together — oo-lit-ic \1002e \1007e of a body of water 2: soft wet ground: MUD - 0 ∖°ü-zê\ ádi

200ze vb oozed; oozing 1: to flow or leak out slow or imperceptibly 2: EXUDE

300ze n : something that oozes op abbr 1 operation; operative; operator 2 opportuni

3 opus OP abbr 1 observation post 2 out of print opacity \0- pa-sə-tê\ n, pl -ties 1: the quality or of being opaque 2: obscurity of meaning 3: men dullness 4: an opaque spot in a normally transpare

structure opal \"o-pal\n: a mineral with iridescent colors that used as a gem

opales-cent \0.0-pa-"les-"nt\ adj : IRIDESCENT es-cence \- ons\ n

opaque \o- pak adj 1 : blocking the passage of r energy and esp. light 2: not easily understood 3: TUSE — opaque ly adv — opaque ness nop art \"ap-\ n : OPTICAL ART — op artist n op cit abbr [L opere citato] in the work cited ope \'op\ vb oped; op ing archaic : OPEN abbr Organization of Petroleum Export OPEC Countries

open open adj opener; openest 1: not shut or ppen No-pan ad open-er; open-est 1: not shut of up (an ~ door) 2: not secret or hidden; also: Russian in oten closed or covered (an ~ fire); also: not tected 4: free to be entered or used (an ~ tour ment) 5: easy to get through or see (~ countuit spread out: EXTENDED 7: not decided (an ~ tion) 8: readily accessible and cooperative; as the components separated with the pame of canish means the property of the pame of canish means the components. space in writing and printing (the name Spanish

is an ~ compour tions, or spaces (stores are ~) 12 season) — open open \o-pan\vb o move from a shul clearing away obs make openings in (~'a store) 5 : RE open er n open n 1 : OUTDOOF to all

open-air adj : OUT open-hand-ed \10-p open-hand-ed-ly a en heart adi : c heart temporarily 1 laid open for inspe open-hearth adj : 0 making steel in a l the roof onto the opening n 1 : an ac ing open 2: BEGIN : OCCASION; also : open-mind-ed \oo-p ly fixed preconcep open sentence n: a: taining at least one the blank is filled o known the stateme that is either true men shop n : an es nonmembers of a l nen-work \"ō-pənshow openings the wrought-iron $\sim \rangle$ opera / ä-prə, -pə-r eratic \a-pə-ra-t oper-a-ble \"ä-pə-rəable to use 2 : likel upon surgical treat opera glasses n pl: ater

operate \"ä-pə-ırāt" work: FUNCTION 2 or keep in operatio operation - op-er operating system n ation of a computer operation \a-pə-'r ing of a practical we fluence; also: meth surgical procedure 4 ematical expression a military action of nal\ adi

operactive \ a-pa-rapropriate effect 2 : c to do with physical (craftsman) 4 : basec ⟨~ dentistry⟩

operative n : OPERAT operetta \a-pa-relight musical-drama spoken dialogue, an oph-thal-mic \af- thal fr. ophthalmos eye] the

oph-thal-mol-o-gy \: branch of medicine tions, and diseases (

oph-thal-mo-scope \ai strument for use in v esp. the retina

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